

# Bethel

## Connecticut

Town Hall  
5 Library Place  
Bethel, CT 06801  
(203) 794-8501

*Belongs to*  
Fairfield County  
Danbury Labor Market Area  
Housatonic Valley Economic Dev. Region  
Housatonic Valley Planning Area

Incorporated in 1855

### Demographics

<i>Population (1998)</i>				<i>Race/Ethnicity (1998)</i>			
	<i>Town</i>	<i>County</i>	<i>State</i>		<i>Town</i>	<i>County</i>	<i>State</i>
1980	16,004	807,143	3,107,580	White	16,499	636,147	2,648,212
1990	17,541	827,645	3,287,116	Black	255	82,879	274,213
1998	17,852	836,207	3,271,239	Asian Pacific	592	25,592	73,304
2003	18,074	843,924	3,272,149	Native American	12	939	5,952
'98-'03 Growth	1.24%	0.92%	0.03%	Other	14	1,610	5,336
				Hispanic (any race)	480	89,040	264,222
Land Area (sq. miles)	16.79	625.85	4,845	<i>Poverty Rate (1990)</i>	2.65%	6.09%	6.61%
Pop./ Sq. Mile (1998)	1,063.25	1,336.11	653	<i>Educational Attainment (1990)</i>			
Per Capita Inc. (1998)	\$28,824	\$37,252	\$27,078	Persons Age 25 or Older	<i>Town</i>	<i>%</i>	<i>State</i>
Households (1998)	6,249	308,221	1,229,087	High School Graduate	3,422	30.3%	648,366
Median Age (1997)	36.6	38.1	37.2	Some College	2,719	24.1%	495,696
				Bachelors or More	3,642	32.3%	597,693
<i>Age Distribution (1998)</i>							
	<i>0-4</i>	<i>5-17</i>	<i>18-24</i>	<i>25-49</i>	<i>50-64</i>	<i>65+</i>	<i>Total</i>
Male	633 7%	1,747 20%	803 9%	3,520 40%	1,411 16%	689 8%	8,803
Female	607 7%	1,666 18%	751 8%	3,595 40%	1,433 16%	997 11%	9,049
County Total	54,813 7%	139,006 17%	64,748 8%	322,604 39%	137,401 16%	117,635 14%	836,207
State Total	216,119 7%	550,400 17%	280,101 9%	1,257,928 38%	499,093 15%	467,598 14%	3,271,239

### Economics

<i>Business Profile (1997)</i>					<i>% of</i>	
<i>Sector</i>	<i>Firms</i>	<i>% of Total</i>	<i>Emp.</i>	<i>% of Total</i>	<i>Amount</i>	<i>Total</i>
Agriculture	38	3.7%	123	1.3%	\$59,052,810	5.15%
Const. and Mining	206	20.2%	889	9.6%	\$24,363,380	2.13%
Manufacturing	101	9.9%	3,369	36.5%	\$11,982,380	1.05%
Trans. And Utilities	30	2.9%	207	2.2%	\$10,663,880	0.93%
Trade	229	22.5%	1,335	14.5%	\$9,356,760	0.82%
Finance, Ins. and Real Estate	56	5.5%	311	3.4%		
Services	350	34.4%	2,761	29.9%		
Government	8	0.8%	230	2.5%		
Total	1,018	100.0%	9,225	100.0%		
<i>Top Five Grand List (1997)</i>						
Duracell, Inc.					\$59,052,810	5.15%
Steiner, Inc.					\$24,363,380	2.13%
Connecticut Light & Power Company					\$11,982,380	1.05%
Tony's Restaurant, Inc.					\$10,663,880	0.93%
Shepard's, Inc.					\$9,356,760	0.82%
Grand List Total (1996)					\$1,146,046,977	
<i>Top Five Major Employers (1997)</i>						
Eaton Corporation					Burndy Corporation	
Duracell					Stonyhill Inn	
Kamthal						
<i>Retail Sales (1996)</i>					<i>Town</i>	<i>State</i>
					\$75,451,421	\$30,837,967,729

### Education

<i>1995-1996 School Year</i>			<i>Connecticut Mastery Test Percent Above Goal</i>					
	<i>Town</i>	<i>State</i>	<i>Grade 4</i>		<i>Grade 6</i>		<i>Grade 8</i>	
Total Students	3,221	461,203	<i>Town</i>	<i>State</i>	<i>Town</i>	<i>State</i>	<i>Town</i>	<i>State</i>
Total Expenditures Per Pupil	\$7,691	\$8,300	Reading	65 55	68 60	74 64		
Average Teacher's Salary	\$49,654	\$48,598	Math	68 59	54 52	58 51		
Students Attending Public School	88.3%	89.2%	Writing	42 46	51 46	70 51		
Student/Teacher Ratio	21.9	14.5	<i>Average SAT Score</i>		<i>Town</i>	<i>State</i>		
Grads Pursuing Post-Sec. Education	114.0%	75.8%	Verbal		523	503		
High School Dropout Rate	2.4%	4.6%	Math		528	499		
<i>Average Class Size</i>								
Kindergarten 19.3	Grade 2 22.0							
Grade 5 22.3	Grade 7 21.7	High School 23.0						

**Connecticut Town Profiles 1998-1999**

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## Connecticut

### Government

Government Form	Selectman- Town Meeting	Annual Debt Service (1996)	\$3,322,873
		As % of Expenditures	10.0%
Total Revenue (1996)	\$33,043,946	Equalized Grand List (1996)	\$1,416,380,212
Tax Revenue	\$21,225,295	Per Capita	\$78,249
Non-tax Revenue	\$848,188	As % of State Average	100.4%
Intergovernmental	\$10,970,463	Date of Last Revaluation	10/ 1/88
Per Capita Tax (1996)	\$1,130	Moody's Bond Rating (1997)	A1
As % of State Average	79.4%	Actual Mill Rate (1997)	20.41
		Equalized Mill Rate (1996)	14.94
		% of Grand List Com/Ind (1995)	19.8%

### Housing

Housing Stock (1997)	Town	County	State	Sales Price Distribution (1996)	Town	County	State
Existing Units (total)	6,669	335,017	1,374,566	Number of Sales			
% Single Unit	74.9%	64.2%	62.9%	Less than \$100,000	55	4,504	22,254
New Permits Auth. (1997)	43	2,045	9,349	\$100,001-\$200,000	186	4,830	20,713
As % Existing Units	0.64%	0.61%	0.68%	\$200,001-\$300,000	86	3,211	6,600
Demolitions (1997)	6	449	1,193	\$300,001-\$400,000	15	1,901	2,730
Residential Sales (1996)	344	17,795	56,333	\$400,001 or More	2	3,349	4,036
Average Price	\$174,073	\$314,650	\$194,596	1996 Characteristics			
Median Price	\$169,950	\$221,000	\$138,000	Owner Occupied Dwellings	4,630	208,121	807,559
				Housing Stock Age - Pre-1950	23.4%	34.1%	33.9%
				Subsidized Housing Units	272	30,502	148,930

### Labor Force

1997	Town	County	State	Commuters (1990)		
Labor Force	9,695	446,996	1,723,300	Commuters into Town from	Town Residents Commuting to	
Employed	9,374	427,779	1,635,400	1. Bethel	1763	Danbury 3338
Unemployed	321	19,217	87,900	2. Danbury	1479	Bethel 1763
Unemployment Rate	3.3%	4.3%	5.1%	3. Newtown	322	New York 656
Total Employment	6,020	411,650	1,581,700	4. New Milford	302	Norwalk 504
Manufacturing	2,110	75,610	265,850	5. New Fairfield	227	Stamford 420
'92-'97 Growth Rate	-4.1%	5.7%	4.3%	6. Brookfield	221	Ridgefield 336
Daytime Population	9,073	472,065	1,740,247	7. Waterbury	209	Brookfield 260
				8. Southbury	138	Wilton 259
				9. New York	133	New Milford 178
				10. Ridgefield	121	Greenwich 177

### Quality of Life

Town	State	Library (1996-1997)	Town	Residential Utilities
Banks (1997)	10	1,378	Total Volumes	85,714
Lodging (1997)	2	756	Circulation Per Capita	8.1
Day Care Facilities (1998)	10	1,651		
Infant Mortality Rate			Distance to Major Cities	Miles
Per 1,000 Res. (1995)	0.358	0.099	Hartford	46
Crime Rate (1996)			Boston	140
Per 1,000 Residents	15.6	40	New York City	56
% Open Land (1990)	66.0%	68.8%	Providence	107
Hospitals (1997)	0	16		
Total Beds	0	2,184		

#### Residential Utilities

Electric Provider	Connecticut Light & Power
	1-800-286-2000
Gas Provider	Yankee Gas Company
	1-800-989-0900
Water Provider	Bridgeport Hydraulic Company
	1-800-732-9678
Cable Provider	Comcast Cablevision of Danbury, Inc.
	203-792-0900